



Hydrops martii (Wagler, 1824) (Serpentes, Dipsadidae): first record in Amapá state, northern Brazil

Omar Machado Entiauspe-Neto,¹ Arthur Diesel Abegg,² Rodrigo Tavares Pinheiro,³ Leandro Malta Borges,⁴ Daniel Loebmann¹

1 Universidade Federal do Rio Grande, Instituto de Ciências Biológicas, Laboratório de Vertebrados, Avenida Itália, km 8, CEP 96203-900, Rio Grande, RS, Brazil. **2** Instituto Butantan, Laboratório Especial de Coleções Zoológicas, Avenida Vital Brasil, 1500, CEP 05503-900, São Paulo, SP, Brazil. **3** Faculdade de Macapá, Rodovia Duca Serra, CEP 68906-801, Macapá, AP, Brazil. **4** Universidade Federal de Santa Maria, Laboratório de Sistemática, Entomologia e Biogeografia, Avenida Roraima, 1000, CEP 97105-900, Santa Maria, RS, Brazil.

Corresponding author: Arthur Diesel Abegg, arthur_abegg@hotmail.com

Abstract

Hydrops martii is a poorly known water snake of the tribe Hydropsini, which has been extensively found across northern South America. In this study, we present the first record in Amapá, based on a single specimen from the municipality of Macapá (0.0333, –51.0666), in the tropical moist broad-leaved forests of northern Brazil. This record extends the species range ca 195 km north from its nearest known record, on Marajó Island, in Pará, in the same ecoregion.

Key words

Hydropsini; geographical distribution; Amazon forest.

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Introduction

The tribe Hydropsini is characterized by a combination of an enlargement at the base of the adductor mandibulae externus superficialis muscle and viviparity. The tribe encompasses the genera *Helicops* Wagler, 1828, *Pseudoeuryx* Fitzinger, 1826 and *Hydrops* Wagler, 1830, with the latter being the type-genus (Zaher 1999, Zaher et al. 2009). The genus *Hydrops* is widely distributed in South America, and it has been recorded in Colombia, Venezuela, Guyana, French Guyana, Brazil, Peru, Bolivia, Paraguay, and Argentina (Roze 1957, Williams and Couturier 1984, Alvarez and Aguirre 1995, Albuquerque 2000, Scrocchi et al. 2005).

The *Hydrops* genus encompasses 3 species of water snakes, all of them small to medium-sized: *Hydrops caesurus* Scrocchi, Ferreira, Avila & Motte, 2005, *Hydrops martii* (Wagler, 1824), and *Hydrops triangularis* (Wagler, 1824). *Hydrops martii* is known from Brazil, Colombia, and Peru, and it can be distinguished from *H. caesurus* and *H. triangularis* based on the presence of 17 dorsal scale rows, while its congeners have 15 (Roze 1957, Albuquerque 2000, Scrocchi et al. 2005). Roze (1957) proposed 2 subspecies of *H. martii*: *Hydrops martii martii* (Wagler, 1824) and *Hydrops martii callostictus* Günther, 1868. Cunha and Nascimento (1993) considered *H. m. callostictus* as a synonym of *H. m. martii*, which was supported by Albuquerque (2000).



Figure 1. *Hydrops martii* (CHFURG 5698) from Macapá, Amapá, Brazil: **A.** Dorsal view. **B.** Ventral view.

Methods

While conducting fieldwork in the municipality of Macapá (0.0333, -051.0666, datum WGS84), Amapá, Brazil, we were made aware of an unidentified snake that was captured and killed by locals. We preserved the snake in 10% formalin, and conserved it in 75% ethanol to be deposited in the herpetological collection of Universidade Federal do Rio Grande (Rio Grande, Brazil) under the voucher number CHFURG 5698 (Fig. 1). The specimen was collected under a permit from IBAMA (Ministry of Environment, government of Brazil) number 43658. We identified the specimen as *H. martii*, which is presented here as the first record from Amapá (Fig. 2).

Results

The specimen was identified by morphological diagnosis based on literature (Albuquerque 2000, Scrocchi et al. 2005). Although *H. martii* might occur in sympatry with *H. triangularis* in several localities, both species can be easily distinguished due to their coloration pattern (black

bands margined by vertical narrow white bands in *H. martii* vs. absent vertical white bands in *H. triangularis*). In addition, *H. martii* is the sole member of the *Hydrops* genus that presents 17 rows of dorsal scales (15 in *H. caesus* and *H. triangularis*). The specimen CHFURG 5698 is a subadult female, collected on 2 December 2016. It has a dark grey dorsum, with monadal black crossbands, that are margined by white narrow bands and diffuse red pigmentation. Its venter is white, with alternated black bands. The dorsum of head is dark grey, with a black nape collar, an incomplete white nuchal collar, and a complete white collar in the prefrontal region. Dorsal scale rows 17-17-17, ventrals 3+182, subcaudals in 68 pairs, supralabials 9/9, infralabials 8/8, temporals 1+1/1+2, snout-vent length 560 mm, tail length 130.3 mm, and head length 10.2mm.

Discussion

The specimen reported here is the first record of *H. martii* for Amapá, extending its known distribution 195 km (straight line) from the nearest known record, Marajó Island, Pará, Brazil. The new record is congruent with the previous records for the species, which were also located in tropical moist broad-leaved forests within the Amazon region (Roze 1957, Albuquerque, 2000), and contributes to an improved understanding of the geographic distribution of a poorly known species, while also filling a gap on its range.

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Authors' Contributions

RTP collected the specimen. OMEN, ADA, LMB, and DL wrote the text.

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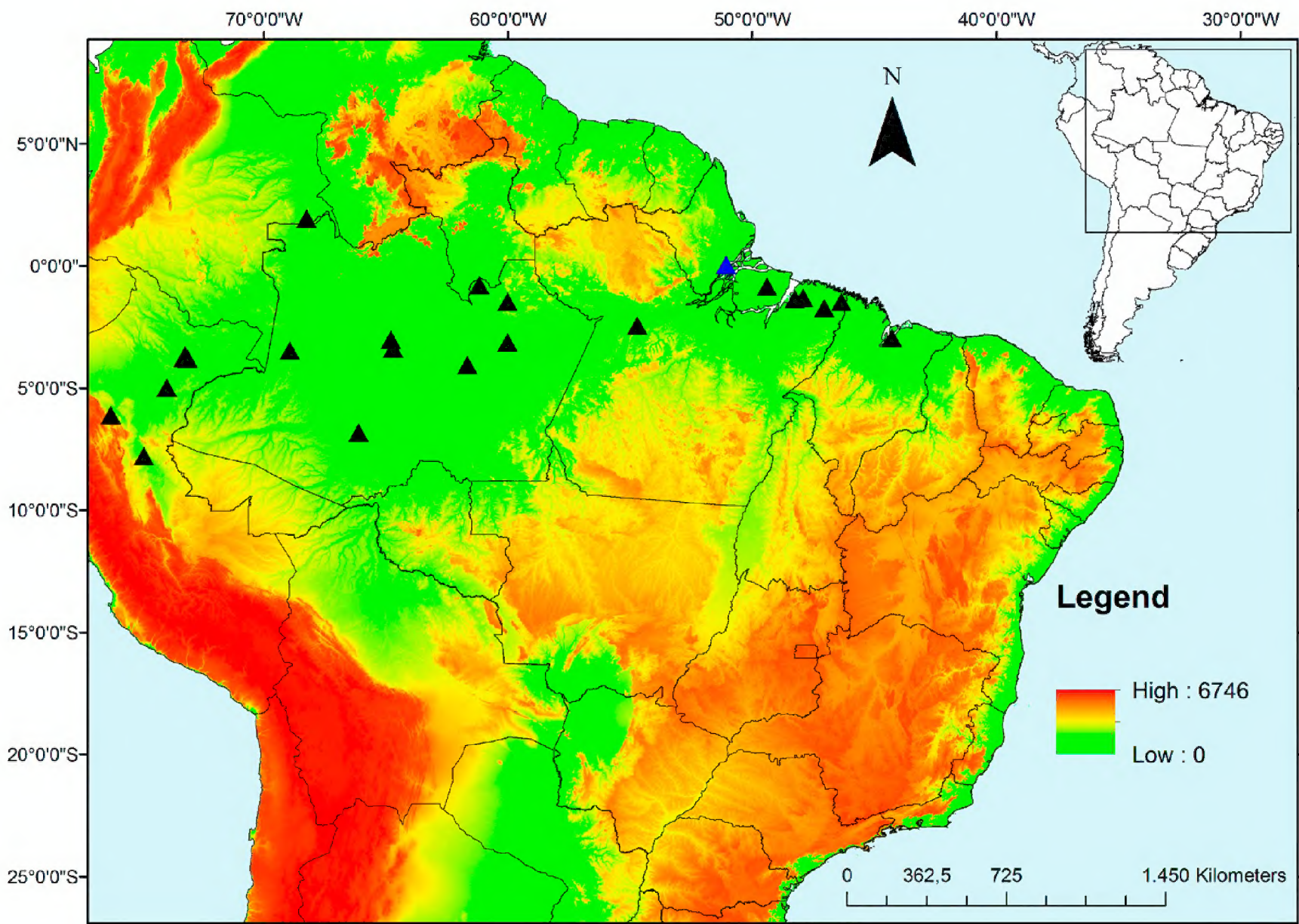


Figure 2. Updated distribution map of *Hydrops martii*. Blue triangle: new record; black triangles: literature records (Roze 1957, de Albuquerque 2000, Scrocchi et al. 2005).

Table 1. Geographic distribution of *Hydrops martii*.

Country	State/department	Municipality (locality)	Latitude	Longitude	Source
Brazil	Amazonas	(Boca de Tefé)	–03.0166	–064.8000	Roze (1957)
Brazil	Amazonas	Manaus	–03.1333	–060.0166	Roze (1957)
Brazil	Amazonas	Presidente Figueiredo	–01.4666	–060.0166	Albuquerque (2000)
Brazil	Amazonas	(Rio Purus)	–06.8333	–066.1166	Albuquerque (2000)
Brazil	Amazonas	Reserva de Desenvolvimento Sustentável Piagaçu-Purus (Rio Purus)	–04.0500	–061.6666	Waldez et al. (2013)
Brazil	Amazonas	São Paulo de Olivença (São João, Rio Solimões)	–03.4666	–068.9333	Roze (1957)
Brazil	Amazonas	Tefé	–03.3833	–064.7000	Roze (1957)
Brazil	Amapá	Macapá	00.0333	–051.0666	This study
Brazil	Maranhão	(Província Maranhão, Rio Itapicuru)	–02.9500	–044.2833	Albuquerque (2000)
Brazil	Pará	Benevides	–01.3500	–048.2500	Albuquerque (2000)
Brazil	Pará	Capitão Poço	–01.7333	–047.0500	Albuquerque (2000)
Brazil	Pará	Castanhal	–01.3000	–047.9166	Albuquerque (2000)
Brazil	Pará	Ilha de Marajó	–00.8500	–049.4000	Roze (1957)
Brazil	Pará	Santarém	–02.4500	–054.7000	Albuquerque (2000)
Brazil	Pará	Viseu	–01.4666	–046.3500	Albuquerque (2000)
Brazil	Roraima	Rio Branco	–00.7833	–061.1666	Albuquerque (2000)
Colombia	Guainía	(Río Cairary, near Jurupary Waterfall)	01.9333	–068.2500	Roze (1957)
Peru	Loreto	Iquitos	–03.7666	–073.2666	Roze (1957)
Peru	Loreto	Iquitos (Isla Lupuna)	–03.8000	–073.1166	Roze (1957)
Peru	Loreto	Iquitos (Río Itaya)	–03.7833	–073.2500	Roze (1957)
Peru	Loreto	Nanay	–03.6666	–073.2333	Roze (1957)
Peru	Loreto	Pampa Hermosa (Río Cushabatay)	–06.1166	–076.2666	Roze (1957)
Peru	Loreto	Requena	–04.9833	–073.9666	Roze (1957)
Peru	Ucayali	Roaboya (Río Ucayali)	–07.7833	–074.9166	Roze (1957)